DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1.   This action vacates the "Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment" dated 12/2/08, as it was

apparently sent in error.

2.   This action is thus responsive to amendment filed 8/15/08 which amended claims 17 and

25, cancelled claims 1-16 and added new claims 33-64. Claims 17-64 remain pending..

Response to Arguments

3.   Applicant's arguments in light of the amendments filed 8/15/2008, and in light of the

current Examiners amendment, have been fully considered and are persuasive.

4.   The previous rejections are withdrawn. .

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

5.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee.

        Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with

Michael P Dunnam (reg 32611) on 4/6/09.

        The application has been amended as follows:

        SEE ATTACHED LISTING OF CLAIMS

Allowable Subject Matter

6.   Claims 17-64 are allowed.

7.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicants invention of content rights management, is found to be patentable. Prior art references found to be pertinent to Applicants disclosure, either only teach minor aspects of the invention or only teach the general environment of the invention. The collective prior art, either singly or in combination, do not teach the claim limitations.

The primary reason for allowance is the novelty of an email comprising a body having at least one previously sent email represented in the body of the email as a body object, each of the emails being rights-managed based on a decryption key and license specified in a digital license. A recipient of the email can render the protected content of each of the email and each body object therein with a corresponding license if the recipient satisfies terms set forth in the license.

APPLICANTS REMARKS:

REMARKS

In a telephone call, the examiner contacted Applicant's undersigned representative to request clarification of the following three items in the claims:

1.   The examiner asked what is meant by a "body object." The examiner is asked to note that a "body object" is identified as element 84 and described at paragraphs [0150]-[0156] of the original specification with respect to Figures 15 and 16. As described therein, a body object may be, for example, an originating email with rights management properties (paragraph [0151]) or a sensitive part of a document with rights management properties (paragraph [0155]). A "body object" as so described is believed to be clear to those skilled in the art.

2. The examiner asked what is meant by "at least one related and previously sent email" as set forth in claim 17, for example. The examiner was apparently concerned that the claimed email included a "related email" and a "previously sent email." This is not the case. Generally speaking, the body of the claimed email is described as having a "previously sent email" that is "related" to the email being formed (related, for example, by subject matter). For clarity, independent claims 17, 33, and 49 and dependent claims 19-22, 35-38, and 51-54 have been amended to remove the language "related and" so that the claimed email is described as including "at least one previously sent email."

3. The examiner asked for clarification of what is meant by a "digital license" in the claims. Independent claims 17, 25, 33, 41, 49, and 57 have been amended to recite that the claimed digital license specifies "a decryption key and license terms setting forth the rules and requirements for rendering corresponding digital content." Support for these amendments may be found in paragraphs [0064]-[0069] of the original specification.

No new matter has been added by these amendments. Claims 17-64 remain in the application.

Entry of the above amendments is requested to place the pending patent application in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowability is solicited.

Date: July , 2009   //
                                                     Michael P. Dunnam
                                                     Registration No. 32,611

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END OF APPLICANTS REMARKS

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for

Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to RAMY M. OSMAN whose telephone number is (571)272-4008.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated

information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ramy M Osman/   August 13, 2009
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2457

LISTING of CLAIMS

1. – 16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing a method of forming an email comprising a body having at least one ~~related and~~ previously sent email, each previously sent email being represented in the body of the email as a body object, each of the email and each body object therein being rights-managed as protected content based on <u>a decryption key and</u> license terms <u>setting forth rules and requirements for rendering corresponding digital content</u> specified in a digital license, whereby a recipient of the email can render the protected content of each of the email and each body object therein by acquiring the digital license and satisfying the license terms set forth in the digital license.

18.   (Original)   The medium of claim 17 wherein each previously sent email was itself rights-managed as protected content according to predefined rights data, and wherein the corresponding body object in the body of the email is also rights-managed as protected content according to the same predefined rights data.

19.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 17 wherein the body has a plurality of ~~related and~~ previously sent emails, the plurality of previously sent emails being represented in the body of the email as a plurality of serially arranged body objects.

20.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 17 wherein the body has a plurality of ~~related and~~ previously sent emails, the plurality of previously sent emails being represented in the body of the email as a plurality of nested body objects.

21.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 17 wherein the at least one ~~related and~~ previously sent email is split into multiple parts, each part being represented in the body

of the email as a body object, each of the email and each body object therein being rights-managed as protected content.

22.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 21 wherein the at least one related and previously sent email was itself rights managed as protected content according to predefined rights data, and wherein the corresponding body object of each part in the body of the email is also rights-managed as protected content according to the same predefined rights data.

23.   (Original)   The medium of claim 21 wherein a portion of the body is interposed between a pair of the multiple parts of the previously sent email, the portion comprising a comment on such previously sent email.

24.   (Original)   The medium of claim 23 wherein the portion is a body object.

25.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing a method of forming a document comprising a body having at least one defined portion therein, each defined portion being represented in the body of the document as a body object, each of the document and each body object therein being rights-managed as protected content based on a decryption key and license terms setting forth rules and requirements for rendering corresponding digital content specified in a digital license, whereby a recipient of the document can render the protected content of each of the document and each body object therein by acquiring the digital license and satisfying the license terms set forth in the digital license.

26.   (Original)   The medium of claim 25 wherein each defined portion was itself rights-managed as protected content according to predefined rights data, and wherein the corresponding body object in the body of the document is also rights-managed as protected content according to the same predefined rights data.

27.   (Original)   The medium of claim 25 wherein the body has a plurality of defined portions therein, the plurality of defined portions being represented in the body of the document as a plurality of serially arranged body objects.

28.   (Original)   The medium of claim 25 wherein the body has a plurality of defined portions therein, the plurality of defined portions being represented in the body of the document as a plurality of nested body objects.

29.   (Original)   The medium of claim 25 wherein the at least one defined portion is split into multiple parts, each part being represented in the body of the document as a body object, each of the document and each body object therein being rights-managed as protected content.

30.   (Original)   The medium of claim 29 wherein the at least one defined portion was itself rights-managed as protected content according to predefined rights data, and wherein the corresponding body object of each part in the body of the document is also rights-managed as protected content according to the same predefined rights data.

31.   (Original)   The medium of claim 29 wherein a portion of the body is interposed between a pair of the multiple parts of the defined portion, the body portion comprising a comment on such defined portion.

32.   (Original)   The medium of claim 31 wherein the body portion is a body object.

33.   (Currently Amended) A method of forming an email comprising forming a body having at least one ~~related and~~ previously sent email, each previously sent email being represented in the body of the email as a body object, each of the email and each body object therein being rights-managed as protected content based on a decryption key and license terms setting forth rules and requirements for rendering corresponding digital content specified in a digital license, whereby a recipient of the email can render the protected

content of each of the email and each body object therein by acquiring the digital license and satisfying the license terms set forth in the digital license.

34.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein each previously sent email was itself rights-managed as protected content according to predefined rights data, and wherein the corresponding body object in the body of the email is also rights-managed as protected content according to the same predefined rights data.

35.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33 wherein the body has a plurality of ~~related and~~ previously sent emails, further comprising representing the plurality of previously sent emails in the body of the email as a plurality of serially arranged body objects.

36.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33 wherein the body has a plurality of ~~related and~~ previously sent emails, further comprising representing the plurality of previously sent emails in the body of the email as a plurality of nested body objects.

37.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33 further comprising splitting the at least one ~~related and~~ previously sent email into multiple parts and representing each part in the body of the email as a body object, each of the email and each body object therein being rights-managed as protected content.

38.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37 wherein the at least one ~~related and~~ previously sent email was itself rights-managed as protected content according to predefined rights data, and wherein the corresponding body object of each part in the body of the email is also rights-managed as protected content according to the same predefined rights data.

39.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 further comprising interposing a portion of the body between a pair of the multiple parts of the previously sent email, the portion comprising a comment on such previously sent email.

40.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein the portion is a body object.

41.   (Currently Amended) A method of forming a document comprising forming a body having at least one defined portion therein, each defined portion being represented in the body of the document as a body object, each of the document and each body object therein being rights-managed as protected content based on a decryption key and license terms setting forth rules and requirements for rendering corresponding digital content specified in a digital license, whereby a recipient of the document can render the protected content of each of the document and each body object therein by acquiring the digital license and satisfying the license terms set forth in the digital license.

42.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41 wherein each defined portion was itself rights-managed as protected content according to predefined rights data, and wherein the corresponding body object in the body of the document is also rights-managed as protected content according to the same predefined rights data.

43.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41 wherein the body has a plurality of defined portions therein, further comprising representing the plurality of defined portions in the body of the document as a plurality of serially arranged body objects.

44.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 41 wherein the body has a plurality of defined portions therein, further comprising representing the plurality of defined portions in the body of the document as a plurality of nested body objects.

45.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41 further comprising splitting the at least one defined portion into multiple parts and representing each part in the body of the document as a body object, each of the document and each body object therein being rights-managed as protected content.

46.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the at least one defined portion was itself rights-managed as protected content according to predefined rights data, and wherein the corresponding body object of each part in the body of the document is also rights-managed as protected content according to the same predefined rights data.

47.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 further comprising interposing a portion of the body between a pair of the multiple parts of the defined portion, the body portion comprising a comment on such defined portion.

48.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47 wherein the body portion is a body object.

49.   (Currently Amended) A computing system programmed so as to form an email comprising a body having at least one ~~related and~~ previously sent email, each previously sent email being represented in the body of the email as a body object, each of the email and each body object therein being rights-managed as protected content based on a decryption key and license terms setting forth rules and requirements for rendering corresponding digital content specified in a digital license, whereby a recipient of the email can render the protected content of each of the email and each body object therein by acquiring the digital license and satisfying the license terms set forth in the digital license.

50.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49 wherein each previously sent email was itself rights-managed as protected content according to predefined rights data, and wherein the corresponding body object in the body of the email is also rights-managed as protected content according to the same predefined rights data.

51.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 49 wherein the body has a plurality of ~~related and~~ previously sent emails, the plurality of previously sent emails being represented in the body of the email as a plurality of serially arranged body objects.

52.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 49 wherein the body has a plurality of ~~related and~~ previously sent emails, the plurality of previously sent emails being represented in the body of the email as a plurality of nested body objects.

53.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 49 wherein the at least one ~~related and~~ previously sent email is split into multiple parts, each part being represented in the body of the email as a body object, each of the email and each body object therein being rights-managed as protected content.

54.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 53 wherein the at least one ~~related and~~ previously sent email was itself rights-managed as protected content according to predefined rights data, and wherein the corresponding body object of each part in the body of the email is also rights-managed as protected content according to the same predefined rights data.

55.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 53 wherein a portion of the body is interposed between a pair of the multiple parts of the previously sent email, the portion comprising a comment on such previously sent email.

56.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 55 wherein the portion is a body object.

57.   (Currently Amended) A computing system programmed so as to form a document comprising a body having at least one defined portion therein, each defined portion being represented in the body of the document as a body object, each of the document and each body object therein being rights-managed as protected content based on a decryption key and license terms setting forth terms rules and requirements for rendering corresponding digital content specified in a digital license, whereby a recipient of the document can render the protected content of each of the document and each body object therein by acquiring the digital license and satisfying the license terms set forth in the digital license.

58. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57 wherein each defined portion was itself rights-managed as protected content according to predefined rights data, and wherein the corresponding body object in the body of the document is also rights-managed as protected content according to the same predefined rights data.

59. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57 wherein the body has a plurality of defined portions therein, the plurality of defined portions being represented in the body of the document as a plurality of serially arranged body objects.

60. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57 wherein the body has a plurality of defined portions therein, the plurality of defined portions being represented in the body of the document as a plurality of nested body objects.

61. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57 wherein the at least one defined portion is split into multiple parts, each part being represented in the body of the document as a body object, each of the document and each body object therein being rights-managed as protected content.

62. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61 wherein the at least one defined portion was itself rights-managed as protected content according to predefined rights data, and wherein the corresponding body object of each part in the body of the document is also rights-managed as protected content according to the same predefined rights data.

63. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61 wherein a portion of the body is interposed between a pair of the multiple parts of the defined portion, the body portion comprising a comment on such defined portion.

64. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 63 wherein the body portion is a body object.